

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-97. Cancelled.

98. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~for~~ adaptively scheduling robot tasks for a robot coupled to a stainer, wherein the robot processes slides in the stainer according to a protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a network connection between a computer and the stainer;
sending commands from the computer to the stainer over the network
connection;
introducing a first at least one slide into the stainer, the stainer being configured to process the first at least one slide using a plurality of desired slide process operations comprising one or more robot tasks;

creating a robot task list of the one or more robot tasks for the stainer, wherein
robot tasks include dispensing reagents to the slide with a moveable robotic dispenser;
processing the first at least one slide according to the robot task list;
during processing of the first at least one slide according to the robot task list,
receiving a second at least one slide into the stainer; and
adaptively rescheduling the robot tasks of the robot task list to create an altered robot task list of the one or more robot tasks for the stainer.

99. (Cancelled)

100. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 98, further comprising the step of discontinuing processing of the first at least one slide according to the robot task list and commencing processing of the first at least one slide according to the altered robot task list.

101. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 98, wherein rescheduling includes running one or more simulations using varied schedules in order to determine the altered robot task list.

102. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 98, wherein adaptively rescheduling comprises:

determining a robot task priority for each robot task in the robot task list; and
sorting the robot task list in order of robot task priority.

103. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 98, wherein the steps are performed automatically by the stainer.

104. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 98, wherein the at least one slide includes a sample.

**105. (New) A method according to claim 98, wherein the at least one slide is
arranged in a substantially horizontal position.**